

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT
September 30, 1994

During the coming year, the Rules Committee will develop guidelines for the submission of rules proposals with examples for distribution to all LMSCs. Hopefully, this will assist in the submission of future proposals in similar format.

1994 RULES PROPOSALS

APPROVED BY RULES COMMITTEE (SIMPLE MAJORITY TO CARRY)

R1 Part One P.15, PNA *Part One: Swimming Rules* is based upon which, as amended, will govern all Masters Swimming competitions.

Rationale Housekeeping

R12A 102.4.2 P.20, Champ Procedure - Swimmers must enter the pool feet first in a cautious manner, ~~with at least one hand in contact with the pool deck or gutter.~~ Diving ...

Rationale Within three months of the convention, we (H2O Swims) had two injuries, i.e. older swimmers trying to enter deep water while keeping one hand on the deck.

R17 103.1.7 P.30, PNA When ~~the meet sanction allows~~ conducting events from alternate ends of to conform to Article 102.10.

Rationale "When the meet sanction allows" is in conflict with 102.10.4A1.a (p.23), 102.10.3C (p.23) and 104.5.5A4 (p.47).

R18 103.2.1E4 P.31, Minn ~~For backstroke starts, the command, "Place your feet."~~ Eliminate and renumber.

103.2.3C P.31, Minn For backstroke and medley relay events, following the Referee's whistle, the Starter directs the swimmers to "Place your feet". After the swimmers have placed their feet, the Starter shall then direct the swimmers to "Take your mark", to which they must respond at once by assuming a starting position. Sufficient time should follow the direction "Take your mark" to enable swimmers to assume a starting position, but no swimmer shall be in motion immediately before the starting signal is given.

Rationale Eliminates an optional command and replaces with a mandatory one. This will level the playing field for all competitors

R22 103.8.1 P.39, PNA C. A relay lead-off split time, provided the swimmers complete the event without being disqualified.

P23E 103.8.3 P.39, PNA Chart

| Timing Method | Official Time Level |
|------------------|---|
| Automatic Timing | - World Records Top Ten Times - Initial splits for all purposes - Relay lead-off times for World Records only <u>all purposes</u> |

R24 104.4.2 P.43, Champ Payments - Successful bidders...meet, a fee of ~~\$5.00~~ \$10.00 per individual entrant in the meet. Upon compliance with the conditions set forth in the Meet Contract, the sum of ~~\$3.00~~ \$2.00 per entrant shall be returned as stipulated in the Contract. An additional amount of \$1.00 per entrant may be returned for outstanding performance by the Host. Noncompliance with said conditions, as determinedamount.

Rationale Income to USMS from National Championships hasn't increased since early to mid 1980's. This proposal provides increased income to USMS and to the Host.

R25 104.5.2A P.44, Champ **Meet Schedules (1995-1998)** See attachment "possible Options for Event Rotation Schedules"

R30 104.5.3C1 P.46, Pacific **Determination of qualifying times.** The qualifying times shall be the ~~slowest tenth best time in each event from theduring the preceding three years' National Championship Meets.~~ 10% over the previous year's tenth place time on the USMS Top Ten list. If there are fewer than ten swimmers on the Top Ten list, the national qualifying time shall be 10% over the last place time for that event.

Rationale The current NQT's are unfair to young swimmers, especially sprinters, and may hamper growth in these age groups. The Top Ten list is a more consistent criterion than the current one. This rule will make fairer standards by easily providing time standards in all events for all ages where swimmers have competed. These standards will also affect longer events which take the most time.

R31 104.5.3C1 P.46, Champ ~~Note: Until such time as the 19-24 year age group Meets.~~

Rationale Three years are up. No longer necessary.

R34A 104.5.4C2 P.47, Pacific **Relay Entry Deadline** - Relays may be entered the day before ~~the meet starts~~ the first day relays are swum.

R40 104.5.5B2 P.48, PNA Willing and able competitors (See Article ~~102.10.3~~ 102.10.4 for principles of seeding two-to-a-lane).

Rationale Housekeeping - incorrect reference.

R45 104.5.10B P.50, Champ **Officials** - 1 Recall Rope Operator for each course 1 Safety Marshall for each end of each pool in use for warm-ups.
The Referees judges.

Rationale To enforce warm-up pool safety.

R47 104.5.11D P.50, Champ The event number and heat number for each heat in the water must be displayed at all times during the competition in a location easily visible to all participants for each course being used.

Rationale Swimmers endure endless anxiety and spend a lot more time than necessary poolside without a reliable indicator of what heat is in the water.

R48 105.2.2 P.51, PNA Individual split times and relay lead-off times will be the LMSC Top Ten Recorder.

R50C 105.3.7 P.52, PNA Records established by a swimmer's split time in an individual event or by a swimmer's lead-off time in a relay shall be the LMSC Top Ten Recorder. ~~Relay lead-off split times will not be considered for Records or Top Ten times.~~

Rationale USMS is the only aquatic organization that does not allow relay lead-off split times to count towards records and top ten tabulations. USS, YMCA, FINA, the National High School Federation, and NCAA allow them. USMS should be consistent with these other organizations.

R52 107.12.2 P.56, SDImp **Size, Color, and Safety** - Dividers ... The color of the floats extending from the walls the distance of 5 meters (16 feet, 5 inches) for long course and short course meters, and 15 feet for short course yards shall be distinct from the rest of the floats.

Rationale Conforms to FINA Facilities Rules and corrects prior oversight.

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY RULES COMMITTEE (SIMPLE MAJORITY TO CARRY)

R10A 102.3.1 P.20, PNA **Individual Events** - 19-24,95-99, 100-104... (five year age groups as high as is necessary)

102.3.2 P.20, PNA **Relay Events**
A **Short Course (25 Yard)** - 19+, 25+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+, 95+ ... (ten...
B **Short course (25 meter) and long course (50 meter)** - 75-99, 100-119, 120-159, 160-199, 200-239, 240-279, 280-319, 320-359, 360-399 ... (forty ...

Rationale Recognition of actual age groups.

- R14 102.10.3C1 P.23, Minn *Starting ~~men's and women's events heats~~ from alternate ends of the course - If only one course is available and the pool depth is adequate at both ends of the course, the meet director may choose to start men's events at one end of the course and women's events at heats from alternate ends of the course.*
- 2. 1. In the 50 meter events, the in-the-water haet may be instructed to wait in the water after the finish until the next heat has been started.*
- 3.-2. In events 100 meters and longer, the next heat may be started when the in-the-water heat is within a half-length of the finish.*
- 3. If the pool depth is different at alternate ends of the course, the meet director may choose to start men's events at one end of the course and women's events at the alternate end of the course. Men's and women's heats shall alternate.*
- 4. If the pool depth is the same at alternate ends of the course, men's and women's heats may alternate.*
- 104.5.5A.8 *Delete in its entirety.*
- R21 103.5.5 P.33, Minn Relay Take-Off Judges
- A. *After the start of the race, relay take-off judges shall stand end of the pool. After the start of the race, the relay take-off judges shall position themselves with a clear view of the relay exchange area. Relay exchanges shall be observed by a minimum of two officials acting independently of each other. One of them shall be assigned to the side of the course. The other may be assigned next to the lane, on the other side of the course, or next to the first official.*
- B. *Additional throughout the meet.*
- C. *renumber to B*
- Rationale Reflects what is actually occurring at USMS meets. Not enough officials anyway.
- R26 104.5.2A P.44, Pacific **Meet Schedules (see bottom of chart)**
- ** With Championship Committee approval, a swimmer may compete in ~~only one~~ both of the two longest freestyle events at the meet. The Championship Committee shall decide how National Qualifying Time's will affect the entry.**
- Rationale Distance swimmers should be allowed to swim their two best events. Studies at past nationals show that only a few swimmers will take advantage of this rule; therefore, meet length will not be altered significantly. These swimmers would be entering the 800/1000 instead of another 200 or 400 yd/mtr race for their sixth event.
- R32 104.5.4B2 P.47, Champ **Distribution of entry form - The entry form for individual events and all meet brochure information shall be published in an official USMS publication at no cost to the Meet Host. Short Course Nationals information shall be published in the Jan-Feb issue and Long Course Nationals information shall be published in the May-June issue. One copy each of the individual and relay entry forms and the meet information any addendum information the Host requires shall be sent to all LMSC Chairmen, all registered clubs, and the USMS Board of Directors as soon asmeet.**
- Rationale Meet Host no longer needs to mail full meet info to all Clubs, LMSC Chairs, and BOD as all members are getting SWIM Magazine.
- R35 104.5.4C P.47, Champ **3. The meet director may establish a US Post Office postmark deadline 7 days prior to the individual entry deadline. If a postmark deadline is established, individual and relay entries postmarked by a US Post Office in the 50 states by midnight of that date will be considered as on-time. Private or corporate meter postmarks will not be accepted.**
- Rationale Postmark deadline gives the Host and entrant a clear cut and verifiable indicator showing which entries are on-time and which are not.

- R36A 104.5.4D P.47, Champ Entry fees optional.
- Entry fees - Entry fees for National Championship Meets shall consist of the following:
1. A \$20.00 surcharge may be charged to be used by the meet sponsor to help pay meet expenses.
 2. \$4.00 each for individual events.
 3. \$8.00 each for relays.
 4. See 36B - TABLED
 5. A banquet or social event may be conducted for an additional fee. Participation in this event is optional.
- R37B 104.5.5A4 P.47, Champ Events longer than 200 yards/meters, ~~except for 1000/1650 yards or 800/1500 meters may be pre-seeded per Article 104.5.5A3, 5, 6, and 7, or may~~ shall deck-seeded by one of the following...
- Rationale With computerized meet seeding, deck seeding is easily accomplished and this will significantly aid in decreasing the length of the meet.
- R38 104.5.5A5 P.48, Champ The last heat etc. (Note exception provided in Article 104.5.5A8.)
- Rationale Housekeeping if 104.5.5A8 is passed.
- R39 104.5.5A8 P.48, Champ If in events. A swimmer may be seeded in an incomplete heat of another age group if the swimmer's seed time would have a significant impact on the timely running of the meet as determined by the Championship Committee.
- Rationale Allows meet director to keep people with others of their own speed and may speed up the meet.
- R41 104.5.5C P.48, Pacific ~~Multiple Courses - When the depth of the courses vary, male and female contestants shall share equal time in the deep end of the pool. Womens events shall be scheduled in the deeper course on days one and three in odd years, and on days two and four in even years. In the event that both courses are the same, the rotation shall not be affected. When the courses are unequal in any way (depth of the course, visibility of timing display, bulk head turns, type of gutter or starting blocks, etc.) male and female swimmers shall share an equal number of days in both courses. Women's events shall be scheduled in the preferred course on days one and three in odd years, and on daays two and four in even yyears. If the time line of the meet is significantly affected by this rotation, the Championship Committee may override this requirement.~~
- Rationale There are various reasons other than the depth of the course which make the courses unequal. We need to retain flexibility of scheduling when one course has more lanes than the other.
- R42 104.5.6C P.49, Minn ~~Divisions - Two~~ Three divisions shall be recognized for purposes of club scoring based upon the number of swimmers *entered in the meet from each club. The number of entrants from a club which will constitute a Division I (Large) or, Division II (Medium), or Division III (Small) team will be determined after the meet entry deadline by the Championship Committee.*
- Rationale Teams should have the right to compete against teams of their same size . Based on 1994, this would place approximately 35 teams in I, 35 teams in II, and 350 teams in III.
- R43 104.5.7 P.49, Minn If above rule is adopted, add Division III to awards. Housekeeping.
- R46 104.5.11B P.50, Pacific All Both courses *shall* have electronic readout boards. ~~For at least one two courses, the electronic readout boards~~ which shall have the capability of displaying times for all lanes simultaneously.
- Rationale The calibre of the meet demands that the competitors be able to see their times immediately after each event. We should not discourage the use of a third course where available.

APPROVED CONTINGENT UPON REWRITE CONSISTENT WITH USS (SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE TO CARRY)

- R54 103.8.1B P.39, PNA A split time recorded ..., provided the swimmer completes the event without being disqualified . complies with the finish rule at the initial distance of a backstroke event, and notifies the Referee prior to a backstroke event of the intent to achieve a backstroke split time.

105.2.2 P.51, PNA Note: Performances in this category ... to complete the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified: comply with the finish rule at the initial distance of a backstroke event, and notify the Referee prior to a backstroke event of the intent to achieve a backstroke split time.

105.3.7 P.52, PNA Note: Performances in this category ... to complete the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified: comply with the finish rule at the initial distance of a backstroke event, and notify the Referee prior to a backstroke event of the intent to achieve a backstroke split time.

DISAPPROVED BY RULES COMMITTEE (2/3 VOTE TO CARRY)

R2 101.1.2 P. 15, Minn **Backstroke Start** - The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end with both hands placed on the gutter or on the starting grips. The feet may be placed in any position on the wall or on the gutter of the pool, and the swimmer may assume any desired starting position which does not remove either foot completely from the water, or either hand from the starting grips or pool edge. Standing in or on the gutter is not permitted at any time before the start. A backstroke starting block may not be used.

A. ~~Short course yards~~ - The swimmers may not be used.

B. ~~Short course meters and long course meters~~ - The may not be used.

Rationale Gives a fair advantage to all swimmers.

R3 101.2.4 P.16, Minn **Turns** - At each turn, the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the surface of the water, ~~and the shoulders shall be in line with the water surface.~~

Rationale The difference is immaterial to the race and officials rarely make the call.

R4 101.3.4 P.17, Minn **Turns** - At each turn, the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface, ~~and the shoulders shall be in line with the surface of the water.~~

Rationale Same as 101.2.4

R5 101.4.2 P.17, SDImp **Stroke** - Standing in or on the gutter (all courses) ~~or curling the toes over the lip of the gutter (short course meters or long course meters)~~ is not permitted immediately after the start. Swimmers may curl their toes over the lip of the gutter or touchpad if they are not attempting a FINA record.

Rationale Would solve the problem of unsafe starts due to slick walls - a swimmer attempting to set a World Record would inform the starter beforehand, so the swim could be certified.

R6 101.4.3 P.17, Minn **Turns** - ~~Upon completion feet leave the wall. Some part of the swimmer's person must touch the end of the racing course during each turn. After any part of the swimmer's head has passed the backstroke flags, the swimmer's upper shoulder is allowed (but not required) to rotate past the vertical toward the prone position before the touch is completed, provided such rotation is accompanied by an immediate initiation of the turning action. The immediate initiation of the turning action shall be accompanied by a single-arm or simultaneous double-arm pull, or in the absence of such pulls, by a downward, underwater movement of the head. After the initiation of the turning action, no additional arm pulls may be taken; however, kicking and gliding actions are permitted. If the swimmer's upper shoulder does not rotate past the vertical toward the prone position before the touch is completed, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. After the turn, the swimmer's upper shoulder must be at or past the vertical toward the supine position when the swimmer leaves the end of the racing course during the push-off.~~

Rationale Why penalize a swimmer for gliding into the wall in backstroke when no other stroke does.

R7 101.7.3F P.19, Minn Mixed relays shall consist of two women and one man and one individual who may be male or female two men and two women who may swim in any order.

Rationale Allows more people to participate.

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| R8 | 101.7.3I | P.19, SDImp | <u>Relay lead-off times will be considered for Top Ten Times and USMS National Records (see Article 105.3.8)</u> |
| | Rationale | | Allows relay lead-off times to count as official times. |
| R9 | 102.2 | P.20, Rules | AGE DETERMINING DATE - The eligibility of a participant for a particular age group will be determined by the age as of the last day of the meet <u>as of the 31st of December of each year.</u> |
| | Rationale | | Will place USMS in conformance with new FINA Rule. |
| R10B | 102.3.1 | P.20, Minn | Individual events - 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99 ... (five year age groups as high as necessary). |
| | 102.3.2A | P.20, Minn | Short course (25 yards) - 19+, 25+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+, 75+, 85+ ... (ten year increments as high as necessary). |
| | 102.3.2B | P.20, Minn | Short course (25 meters) and long course (50 meters) - 76-99, 100-119, 120-159, 160-199, 200-239, 240-279, 280-319 ... (forty year increments as high as necessary). |
| | Rationale | | Eliminate unnecessary verbage |
| R11 | 102.3.2 | P.20, SC | Relay Events - In all courses (yards & meters), 76-89, 90+, 100+, 110+, 120+, 130+, 140, 150+, 160+, ... (ten year increments as high as is necessary). The aggregate age of the four relay team members shall determine the age group. It is recommended that meet managers, referees, or clerks of course seed the heats so that teams of the same age group swim next to each other. |
| | Rationale | | We fail to see the sense of having different age group rules just because of the size of the pool. It would make it more enjoyable and much more spirited if the same age groups were racing next to each other. |
| R12B | 102.4.2 | P.20, Champ | Procedure - Swimmers must enter the pool feet first in a cautious manner <u>from a sitting position, with at least one hand in contact with the pool deck or gutter.</u> Diving ... |
| | Rationale | | Same as above. This deletes the hand contact but is more specific to decrease the chance of jumping out from the wall. |
| R13 | 102.5. | P.20, Oregon | EVENTS - In planningsheltered rest areas. The following <u>official</u> events may be conducted for each age group:(events both short course and long course remain the same, jump to end of 102.5.2 and add new Note) <u>Note: In addition to the above official events, unofficial "fun" events may also be conducted, which would be neither considered nor submitted for record or top ten consideration.</u> |
| | Rationale | | To explicitly permit events other than official events to be swum. This is generally considered to be allowed, but is unclear in the Rule Book. |
| R16 | 102.17.2 | P.29, Oregon | The minimum number of officials at USMS sanctioned Masters Swimming meets or recognized events <u>shall be four plus required timers (with the exception of freestyle events during which a minimum of two plus required timers are required) and shall include the following:</u> 1 Referee 1 Starter 2 Stroke and Turn Judges 2 Timers per lane (if automatic equipment is not being used) The Referee and Starter may double as stroke and turn judges <u>during freestyle events</u> , but the Referee and Starter may not be the same person. One of the officials shall be a Referee, Starter, or Stroke and Turn Judge certified by USS, YMCA, or any other USMS-approved certifying body. |
| | Rationale | | First, to explicitly state in the first paragraph the number required. Secondly, to increase the number of required officials so that all lanes in non-freestyle events may be more equitably judged. |
| R19A | 103.2.5 | P.32, PNA | D. When the starting signal is given by a second signal. |

E. A swimmer can be charged with a false start by the starter or recall starter only if the Referee confirms that the violation has occurred.

G. Any swimmer who is charged with committing or causing a false start shall be disqualified and shall not be permitted to swim the event. This rule shall apply.

~~H. A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start or charged with a false start if the race is permitted to proceed without recall. Enforcement is given.~~

103.3 P.33, PNA RECALL STARTER Delete in its entirety and renumber.

103.4 P.33, PNA RECALL ROPE OPERATOR Delete in its entirety and renumber.

107.15 P.57, PNA FALSE START RECALL ROPE Delete in its entirety and renumber.

Rationale Recalling a heat and starting over is unfair to those who started legally and expended energy on the first start.

R19B 103.2.5D P.32, Minn ~~D. When the starting signal is given and one or more swimmers have obtained an unfair advantage, all swimmers shall be recalled at once by a second signal. Delete in its entirety and renumber.~~

F. The Starter shall indicate the swimmer or swimmers, if any, who are charged with a false start after the race has been completed.

~~H. A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start or charged with a false start if the race is permitted to proceed without recall. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter, who may impose the appropriate penalty for violation before the signal is given. Delete in its entirety.~~

Rationale Reduces time, solves problem when swimming two-to-a-lane.

103.3 P.33, Minn RECALL STARTER - A Recall Starter may be assigned to immediately discharge a recall sound device if the automatic equipment is not properly functioning on the starting signal or if a false start has been observed.

103.4 P.33, Minn RECALL ROPE OPERATOR Delete in its entirety and renumber.

R23A 103.8.3 P.39, SDImp If relay splits are approved for USMS Records and for Top Ten, "for World Records only" must be eliminated in the chart for automatic timing and three watches. This is housekeeping.

R28A 104.5.3A P.45, PNA **Individual events** - Competitors may enter and swim in with a maximum of ~~three~~ five individual events per day.

Rationale Allows swimmers who can only attend for two days on a weekend to enter a full complement of events, especially if distance is one of those two days.

R28B 104.5.3A P.45, Minn Individual events - Competitors may enter and swim in with a maximum of ~~three~~ two individual events per day.

Rationale Will shorten the meet.

R29 104.5.3B P.45, Pacific **Relays** - Competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one freestyle relay, one medley relay, one mixed freestyle relay, and one mixed medley relay. Each USMS club may enter a maximum of three relays per age group in each relay event.

Rationale Local teams have an unfair advantage in entering relays. Limiting to three teams per club per age group allows for plenty of local participation and could possibly cut the meet timeline.

R34B 104.5.4C2 P.47, Pacific Participants therein must have entered the meet 35 days in advance by the individual entry deadline, except that relay only participants may pay the surcharge and enter the meet up until the relay entry deadline.

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| | Rationale | | Sometimes a relay member cannot attend the meet after entry. This rule would allow another swimmer to enter late for relays only. The burden on the meet directors would be balanced by extra income. |
| R49 | 105.2.3 | P.51, SDImp | Add new section and renumber 105.2.3 as 105.2.4 <u>Relay lead-off times will be considered for Top Ten Times if recorded by fully automatic timing equipment or from at least two hand-held watches (separate from the finish watches) and provided such splits are brought to the attention, in writing, of the meet director. Such split times shall be included separately in the summary of results prepared by the meet director, and submitted to the LMSC Top Ten Recorder. Should the lead-off swimmer in a relay team complete their distance, the performance shall not be nullified by any subsequent disqualification of the relay team for violations occurring after the lead-off leg.</u> |
| | Rationale | | Allows relay splits to count as official times, and allows swimmers without access to electronic timing equipment the same chance to have splits count. |
| R50A | 105.3.7 | P.52, Michigan | Records Top Ten Recorder. Relay lead-off split times will not be considered for Records or Top Ten times. |
| R50B | 105.3.7 | P.52, SDImp | Records Top Ten Recorder. Relay lead-off split times will not be considered for Records or Top Ten times. |
| R51 | 105.3.8 | P.52, SDImp | New section and renumber 105.3.8 - 15.3.11. <u>Records established by a swimmer's relay lead-off time shall be acceptable as an individual performance for all official purposes if recorded by fully-automatic timing equipment or from three hand-held watches (separate from the finish watches) and provided such splits are brought to the attention, in writing, of the meet director. Such times shall be included separately in the summary of results as prepared by the meet director and submitted to the LMSC Top Ten Recorder. Should the lead-off swimmer in a relay team complete that distance in record time, the performance shall not be nullified by any subsequent disqualification of the relay team for violations occurring after the lead-off leg.</u> |
| | Rationale | | Conforms with FINA and USS rules - provides opportunity for relay lead-off swimmers to set National Records under the same timing constraints as individual swims. |
| R53 | 107.15 | P.57, Minn | FALSE START RECALL ROPE Delete in its entirety and renumber. WITHDRAWN (NO VOTE NECESSARY) |
| R15 | 102.16.3 | P.29, Minn | Protests against the judgement decisions of the Starters, stroke, turn, and relay takeoff judges can only be considered by the Referee of the meet. Note: eliminate and renumber. |
| R20 | 103.2.5I | P.32, Champ | <u>In distance events swum two-to-a-lane, swimmers shall not be recalled in the event of a false start. The false start shall be charged to the offending swimmer and the swimmer shall be informed of the disqualification after the event is completed.</u> |
| | Rationale | | Recalling second heat swimmers is distracting to those already swimming in the first heat. First heat should be treated equally - DQs assessed when both heats finish. |
| | Note | | If passed, add at the end of 103.2.5D, G, and H. <u>(Note exception for distance events swum two-to-a-lane in Article 103.2.5I)</u> |
| R27 | 104.5.2B3 | P.45, Champ | Full days on the schedule may <u>shall</u> be interchanged <u>if needed</u> so that: <u>1) the 400/500 free and the 1500/1650 free shall not be swum on consecutive days and 2.) if possible, the day with two relay events shall not be the first day of the meet (or, if the 1500/1650 day is the first day of the meet, the day with two relay events shall not be the second day of the meet).</u> |
| | Rationale | | The confusion usually associated with the first relays swum makes only one relay on the first day prudent. It won't always be possible. |

- R33A 104.5.4C1 P.47, Champ **Individual entry deadline** - be not more than 35 40 days prior to the first day of competition.
- Rationale To give the Meet Director more time to process entries.
- R33B 104.5.4C1 P.47, Champ **a. On-time individual entry deadline** - the deadline for receipt of on-time entries for National Championship meets shall be not less than 35 40 days prior to the first day of competition.
b. Late individual entries - late entries will be accepted until five days after the deadline if the late entry penalty is included with payment.
- Rationale To spread out the crush of entries that typically arrive in the last two or three days before the deadline.
- R36B 104.5.4D P.47, Champ **4. A \$15.00 late entry penalty for entries received in the five days after the on-time individual entry deadline.**
- Rationale Provides Host with more up-front working capital via the higher surcharge and provides for a late entry penalty fee.
- R37A 104.5.5A4 P.47, Pacific ~~Events longer than 200 yards/meters, except for 1000/1650 yards or 800/1500 meters, may be pre-seeded per Article 104.5.5A(3),(5),(6),(7), or may shall be deck-seeded by one of the combination of (a) and (b). The USMS Championship Committee shall make all seeding decisions, including which events will be deck-seeded~~ **decide the method of seeding. In the event that the 500 Free or 400 IM is scheduled as the first event of the meet, it may be preseeded.**
- Rationale We have had too many empty lanes in the past three Nationals where the 500 Free and 400 IM have been pre-seeded. The exception for the first event, first day makes sense because of check-in problems.
- R44 104.5.9A P.49, Minn ~~Protest against judgement decisions of Starters, stroke and turn judges, and relay take-off judges may only be considered by the Referee of the meet. Delete in its entirety.~~